

they travel to a fundraising event, in Hollywood or San Francisco or Florida, for another Senator, and they could receive reimbursement for lodging—a clear inconsistency. We cannot do it for charity; but we can do it for politics.

Some suggest that politics is our business and that is why we should be allowed to continue to do it. But charity is also a worthy cause. Every Senator has, at one time or another, made a campaign appearance for his party or another member of his party. But the Senate now has created a system where politicians can travel all over this country attending political fundraisers and be reimbursed for travel and lodging but cannot be reimbursed for participating in charity events. This means the Senator can accept travel, lodging and dinner in some plush spot, elbow to elbow, on occasion, perhaps, with lobbyists, if he or she is raising money for a political group but cannot be reimbursed for participation in a charity event.

The source of funds for both charity and political events is often the same, donations of lobbyists and political action committees. The irony is that inside the beltway, charities still will be able to encourage the participation of business executives with the presence of Senators as a lure, but the charities in the distant States such as mine, in Alaska, will be shut out of the means to raise funds for worthy causes such as breast cancer detection screening.

Last year my wife, Nancy, and I were the honorary chairs of a charity fishing tournament held outside Ketchikan, AK. The tournament raised \$150,000 for the Breast Cancer Detection Center of Fairbanks. Money for the center was used to pay for a new mammography machine. The center, founded in 1976 by my wife and a group of Fairbanks women, provides free or reduced-cost breast cancer examination for about 2,200 women a year on average. Over the years, women from 81 Alaska villages have benefited from these tests.

This year, we proceeded with a second event at a place called Waterfall, near Ketchikan. We raised approximately \$210,000 and were able to give the Breast Cancer Detection Center of Alaska \$200,000 to allow them to order a mobile mammogram unit, which will be traversing the highways of Alaska next spring. It will be able to be utilized on the ferry systems and by barge systems and will be brought into the remote villages. This is a van, equipped with a mammography machine. It will also be able to be transported by the Air National Guard into some of the 220 rural villages in my State.

This unit is going to be vital to preserve the health of Alaska's women, including many Native women. I might add, the State's breast cancer mortality is the second highest in the Nation. One in eight Alaska women will develop breast cancer, with about 50 a year dying from that disease. Breast cancer screening can reduce this rate by some 30 percent.

My clear preference would have been to allow Senators to continue to come to this charity event, events approved previously by the Senate Ethics Committee to guarantee that they were legitimate charities. It seems to me, when Congress attacks charity events while leaving big loopholes for political travel, it simply puts us all in the bull's eye, furthering the public's growing skepticism toward public officials.

The gift rule and related lobbying reform legislation that the Senate has approved overall are certainly good steps to restore public confidence in the Senate and Congress. But why shoot down legitimate charities? Mr. President, that is just what we have done.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

I thank my colleague for allowing me this extra time.

TRIBUTE TO FAYE BROWN

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to commend and congratulate Faye Brown, who will be retiring from the bankruptcy administrator's office in Birmingham at the end of this month. She has been a fixture at the bankruptcy court and administrator's office for many years.

Faye graduated from Dale County High School in Ozark, AL; in 1950 and attended Howard College, now Samford University, graduating in 1954. From 1966 to 1971, she served as the personal secretary to Judge Robert S. Vance. In 1972, she was appointed deputy clerk for the bankruptcy court.

From 1979 to 1985, Faye was the secretary to Judge Stephen B. Coleman, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama. In 1985, after Judge Coleman's retirement, she became the asset closing clerk for the bankruptcy clerk's office, serving there for the next 7 years. In 1992, she obtained her current position and the one from which she is retiring this month, that of bankruptcy analyst.

Faye Brown has done an outstanding job over the many years of her career. In many ways, she is the institutional memory of her office, and knows the in's and out's of the bankruptcy court as well as anyone, and her expertise and dedication will be sorely missed. I congratulate her for a job well done and wish her all the best for a long, healthy, and happy retirement. It is surely well-earned.

POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, on Friday, I joined with the Members of this body, and with all the citizens of our Nation, in commemorating the American service members who are missing in action and whose fates yet remain unknown.

Our Nation honored those who are missing, both for their service and for their sacrifice.

We acknowledged the shared loss inflicted upon all of us when young men

and women are sent to war and do not return to us. We expressed our understanding of the terrible frustration, and, yes, even the anger, energized in us by the fact that the fates of those American service members remain unknown.

We restated our sacred obligation to take every reasonable step to obtain the fullest possible accounting for those still missing.

We endorsed anew our national commitment to recover and identify the remains of the honored dead.

Yes, it is so important to honor our missing service members. And it is necessary to ever remember our obligations, both to them and to their families.

Yet it is also important to acknowledge that there are practical and realistic limits to what can ever be learned. There are mysteries that will remain forever unsolved in this world.

We do our Nation's service members no justice if we fail to take every single reasonable step to recover them when they are lost from our midst. But we do them no honor—yes, we even dishonor them—if we are to allow their loss to become an albatross forever about the necks of our caring countrymen.

Mr. President, Friday our Nation paused to commemorate our missing in action, including members of my own family in World War II. Today, and every day, we must remember their service and their sacrifice. And today, and every day, our Nation can continue to honor them by ensuring that America remains wholly committed, at home and abroad, to the freedoms they fought to preserve forever.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the impression will not go away: The \$4.9 trillion Federal debt stands today as a sort of grotesque parallel to television's energizer bunny that appears and appears and appears in precisely the same way that the Federal debt keeps going up and up and up.

Politicians like to talk a good game—and "talk" is the operative word—about reducing the Federal deficit and bringing the Federal debt under control. But watch how they vote. Control, Mr. President. As of Friday, September 15, at the close of business, the total Federal debt stood at exactly \$4,962,989,568,088.23 or \$18,839.59 per man, woman, child on a per capita basis. *Res ipsa loquitur*.

Some control, isn't it?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, is the lead time reserved?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH ANN KOMAREK

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a valued member of my staff whose length of service to me